

What I claim is:

1. A portable easel for assisting in the tracing of figures, comprising:
 - a main base having an interior volume;
 - a projector disposed in said interior volume, said projector having a light source and an image holding means adapted to receive a light-transmissible medium bearing an image; and
 - a writing plane attached to said main base above said interior volume having an upper surface and a lower surface, said writing plane including a light-transmissible portion, wherein said projector shines a path of light through the medium which projects the image onto said lower surface of said writing plane so that the image is visible on said upper surface of said writing plane.
2. A portable easel according to Claim 1, wherein said writing plane is hingedly attached to said main base at one end of said main base.
3. A portable easel according to Claim 2, further comprising a cover hingedly attached to an opposite end of said main base as said writing plane.
4. A portable easel according to Claim 3, wherein said writing plane is adapted to be secured against said cover at an angle to said main base.
5. A portable easel according to Claim 3, wherein said writing plane is movable about its hinged attachment between an upright position at an angle with said main base of between 0° and

90° and a flat position substantially parallel with and covering said main base.

6. A portable easel according to Claim 5, wherein said writing plane is maintainable in said upright position by securing said writing plane against said cover.

7. A portable easel according to Claim 5, wherein said cover is lockably closable over said writing plane when said writing plane is in said flat position.

8. A portable easel according to Claim 3, further comprising a supplemental writing surface on said cover.

9. A portable easel according to Claim 1, further comprising clips attached to said upper surface of said writing plane to secure a piece of paper on top of said writing plane.

10. A portable easel according to Claim 1, wherein said projector further comprises at least one mirror in said interior volume to reflect light from said light source and direct the same onto said lower surface of said writing plane.

11. A portable easel according to Claim 5, said projector further comprising a mirror disposed in said path of light produced by said light source, wherein light from said light source passes through said image holding means, is reflected off of said mirror, and is projected onto said lower surface of said writing plane.

12. A portable easel according to Claim 11, wherein said mirror is angled with respect to said path of light so as to reflect said light onto said lower surface of said writing plane when said writing plane is in said upright position.

13. A portable easel according to Claim 1, wherein said projector includes a projector housing and said image holding means comprises a slot formed in said projector housing.

14. A portable easel according to Claim 11, wherein said projector includes a projector housing and said image holding means comprises a slot formed in said projector housing between said light source and said mirror.

15. A portable easel according to Claim 1, wherein said image holding means comprises grips for securing said light-transmissible medium.

16. A portable easel for assisting in the tracing of figures, comprising:

- a main base having an interior volume;
- a projector disposed in said interior volume, said projector having a light source and a receptacle;
- a light-transmissible medium having at least one image formed thereon insertable into said receptacle;
- a writing plane attached to said main base and locatable above said interior volume having an upper surface and a lower surface, said writing plane including a translucent window

portion,

wherein said light source shines light through said medium and projects said image onto said lower surface of said writing plane so that said image is visible on said upper surface of said writing plane.

17. A portable easel according to Claim 16, wherein said writing plane is hingedly attached to said main base at one end of said main base.

18. A portable easel according to Claim 17, further comprising a cover hingedly attached to an opposite end of said main base.

19. A portable easel according to Claim 18, wherein said writing plane is adapted to be propped open against said cover at an angle to said main base.

20. A portable easel according to Claim 18, wherein said writing plane is movable about its hinged attachment between an upright position at an angle with said main base of between 0° and 90° and a flat position substantially enclosing said main base.

21. A portable easel according to Claim 20, wherein said writing plane is maintainable in said upright position by propping said writing plane against said cover.

22. A portable easel according to Claim 20, wherein said cover is securely closable over said

writing plane when said writing plane is in said flat position.

23. A portable easel according to Claim 18, further comprising a supplemental writing surface on an upper surface of said cover.

24. A portable easel according to Claim 16, further comprising clips attached to said upper surface of said writing plane and adjacent to said translucent portion, adapted to secure a piece of paper on top of said translucent portion.

25. A portable easel according to Claim 16, said projector further comprising a mirror disposed in said path of light produced by said light source, wherein light from said light source passes through said receptacle, is reflected off of said mirror, and is projected onto said lower surface of said writing plane.

26. A portable easel according to Claim 20, said projector further comprising a mirror disposed in said path of light produced by said light source, wherein light from said light source passes through said receptacle, is reflected off of said mirror, and is projected onto said lower surface of said writing plane.

27. A portable easel according to Claim 26, wherein said mirror is angled with respect to said path of light so as to reflect said light onto said lower surface of said writing plane when said writing plane is in said upright position.

28. A portable easel according to Claim 16, wherein said projector includes a projector housing and said receptacle is a slot formed in said projector housing.

29. A portable easel according to Claim 26, wherein said projector includes a projector housing and said receptacle is a slot formed in said projector housing between said light source and said mirror.

30. A portable easel according to Claim 16, wherein said receptacle comprises grips for holding said medium.

31. A portable easel according to Claim 16, said medium comprising a plurality of images each individually and selectively disposable in said path of light when said medium is placed in said receptacle.

32. A portable easel according to Claim 16, said medium comprising a round frame having a plurality of images formed around the periphery of said frame, wherein when said medium is placed in said receptacle, each of said plurality of images is individually and selectively rotatably alignable into said path of light.

33. A portable easel according to Claim 32, said frame having registration notches formed in an outer periphery of said frame, said receptacle including a registration projection, wherein when said medium is rotated within said receptacle, said registration projection engages one of

said registration notches to align one of said images with said path of light.

34. A portable easel according to Claim 16, further comprising a plurality of said media disposable in said receptacle, said plurality of media bearing different images.

35. A portable easel according to Claim 16, wherein said main base is dimensional to contain drawing supplies.

36. A portable easel for assisting in the tracing of figures, comprising:

- a main base having an interior volume;
- a projector linearly movably disposed in said interior volume, said projector having a light source and a receptacle adapted to secure a light-transmissible medium bearing an image;
- a writing plane, attached to said main base, locating the same at an angle to said interior volume, said writing plane having an upper surface and a lower surface, said writing plane including a light-transmissible portion between at least a portion of said upper surface and said lower surface; and
- a mirror disposed in a path of light produced by said light source, wherein light from said light source passes through said receptacle, is reflected off of said mirror, and is projected through said light transmissible portion so that the image is visible on said upper surface of said writing plane.

37. A portable easel according to Claim 36, wherein said projector is selectively movable in a linear path towards and away from said mirror.

38. A portable easel according to Claim 36, wherein the distance between said projector and said mirror is adjustable.

39. A portable easel according to Claim 36, wherein at least one of said projector and said mirror are movable with respect to the other of said projector and said mirror.